Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Conventions of Writing

Unit: Education

As students of education yourselves, the controversy about what a “right to an education” means and what a quality education actually is should be very important to you. You are in school for thirteen years in order to ensure that you are “college and career ready.” But, does this mean that you are ready for life? Should what you learn be tested each year in the format we are doing so now? With mandated, standardized state testing like the HSPA and the PARCC? Or should education administrators and the government develop new ways to assess you and your education?

Think briefly about the above. Discuss this idea with your classmates and jot some notes down below.

Essay Question: What is the most valuable part of an educational experience? What is most important to get out of these thirteen years? How can that be measured/assessed/tested . . . or should it?

A couple of quotes to choose from to help you find your answer. (Only utilize one, and I think a good place to include this would be in your introduction)

A: “Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself” – John Dewey

B: “Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandella

C. “education is not the learning of facts, but the training of a mind to think” – Albert Einstein

Essay organization:

I. Intro: Introduce the topic/prompt in your own words and explain it and how you feel about it (without using first person. Provide one of the quotes to help support your beliefs and then out the quote into your own words. End with your thesis = what you are trying to prove in this essay (which should answer the question in the prompt)

II. Arguable topic sentence /reason 1

\*Support this using the film “Freedom Writers” – follow the steps of the analytical paragraph

III. Arguable topic sentence/ reason 2

\*Support this using the story “Chinasa” – follow the steps of the analytical paragraph

IV. Arguable topic sentence (on final part of the prompt – how do we test this/ should we test this)

\*Use the PARRC article

V. Conclusion